The Rashi Database Project

RASHI ID: Lv09-12a, Lv09-15a, Lv09-24a, Lv11-03a,b, Lv11-03c, Lv11-03d, Lv11-03e

PESHAT, SPONTANEOUS, REACTION TO SKILLFUL ENGLISH TRANSLATION

RASHI vs. MIDRASH: We will continue with the *routine* Rashid comments begun recently. Although there are already encyclopedic works documenting Rashi's rich approach to dictionary meaning such as Avineri's *Rashi's Palace,* my emphasis will be on the half dozen principles and figures of speech used to explain meaning. Additionally, as done in my doctoral thesis, I will emphasis that *peshat* the straightforward meaning of the text coincides with what reading literacy examinations test.

The techniques covered in this *routine Rashid* series are: *Metonymy, hypernymy, synecdoche, meronomy, root meaning, grammar, parallelism, the paragraph, and reading literacy.* By repeatedly emphasizing these principles and reinforcing them with English examples it is hoped that the reader will acquire a natural skill for these approaches thereby leading to greater Rashid appreciation.

The table with this week's examples begin on the next page.

Verse	Translation of Verse with Rashi	Rule	Brief Explanation of Rule
Lv09-12a	*He slaughtered the elevation offering and the sons of Aaron* extended *[lit. made him find]* the blood	Grammar – Conjugations	*The root* Mem-Tzade-Aleph *means* to find. *In the causative conjugation it means to cause someone else* to find *and hence would correspond to the idea of* extending *something to him so that he finds it*
Lv09-15a	*…He took the sin-offering of the nation…he slaughtered it and* prepared it like a sin offering *[lit.* sinned *it]*	Denominative – Performative	*Just as from the noun* hospital *we get the verb* to hospitalize *and from the noun* tango *we get the verb* to tango *so too from the noun* sin-offering *we get the verb* to sin *meaning to perform the activities of the sin offering. Naming verbs from nouns is called in grammar the* denominative. *This is a particular example of a* performative denominative

Lv09-24a	*A fire went out before God and consumed the offerings, the entire nation was* spirited *and fell on their faith*	Etymologies	*The verse uses the word* VaYaRoNu *from the biblical root,* Resh-Nun. *Rashi simply cites the Aramaic translation, "To praise". It is my custom when analyzing Rashis giving meaning to present the etymology even if Rashi did not explicitly do so in this particular case. The root* Resh-Nun *has the non-weak letters* Resh *and* Nun. Resh *means* Ruach, *or* spirit. Nun *means* child *(actually grand*child*) and refers to receiving things (that is why the* Nun *is used to indicate the passive (the receiving) tense. So the root would mean* Resh-Nun, *they received the* spirit *and the verb form would be they* became spirited *which would correspond neatly to Rashi's explanation of they praised since that is what a person who is* spirit*ed does*
Lv11-03a,b	*[These are the Kosher animals] Any [animal] with a* cloven hoof *[lit.* spreadout spread-out*]*	Synecdoche	Cloven hoof *refers to a hoof with a small indent or crease in the middle. Such an indent with hoof on each side looks or appears or is a* good example *[*synecdoche*] as if someone made an indent and* spreadout *the hoof. Hence the* cloven hoof *is named the* spreadout *from the root* Pay-Resh-Samech *which means to* spread out. *The hoof itself is also called* spread-out *because it provides support to the animal while walking.*

Lv11-03c	[These are the kosher animals] Completely split hoofs [lit. `ripped`]	Figures of Speech – exaggeration	*Rashi explains that the hoof of an animal can look like a fork with a single stem and many prongs, or, it can look like chopsticks with many prongs each one independent. The verse speaks about* `ripped-apart` *hoofs which implies that the hoofs are multi-pronged like chopsticks. The technique of calling something split using the word ripped involves the figure of speech* `exaggeration` *and for example justifies that* `break-fast` *is the name of* `breakfast` *and* `sky-scraper` *is the name of* `skyscrapers`, *tall buildings.*
Lv11-03d	[There are the kosher animals] who chewiest the cud [lit. `rising the foodpipe`]	Synecdoche	*Chewest the cud refers to the following: a) the animal eats the food and masticates it in its mouth, b) the food goes down to the stomach, c) the food is then regurgitated upwards back to the mouth for a second chewing. Hence,* `rising in the foodpipe` *is a* `good example` *(synecdoche) of the* `chewest-the-cud` *practice so that* `rising the foodpipe` *becomes the name of chewing the cud.*

Lv11-03e	foodpipe *[lit. the trickle]*	Verbal noun	*The root* Gimel-Resh *means non-citizen. From this we get* Gimel-Resh-Hey, trickling *(e.g. water trickling to the ground) since trickling is a gait of the non-citizen and hence the non-citizen is a* good example [synecdoche] *of trickling. From the verb* to trickle *we obtain the word* foodpipe *[lit.* the trickle*] because the food trickles down the pipe from the mouth to the stomach [Rashi is actually explicit here]*